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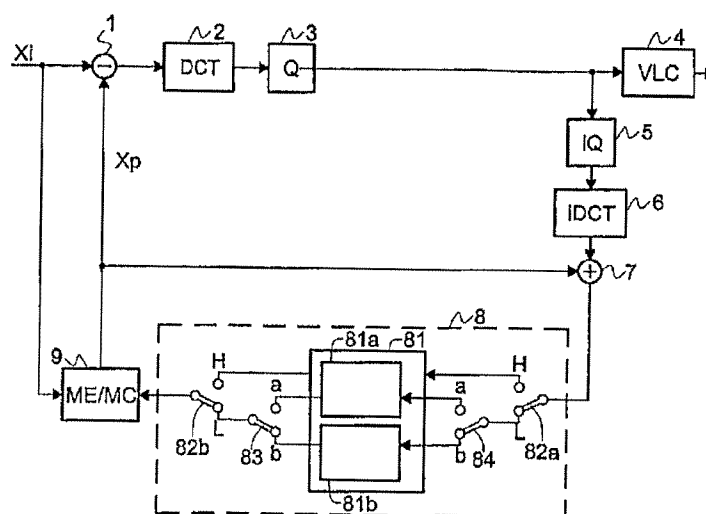
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- (71) Applicant: KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Bindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventors: BRÜLS, Wilhelmus, H., A.; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Bindhoven (NL). SALOMONS, Eduard, W.; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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(54) Title: VIDEO ENCODING AND DECODING WITH SELECTABLE IMAGE RESOLUTION



(57) Abstract: A video encoder is usually designed to have a given performance at a given resolution. For example, MPEG2 encoders are known that compress video at '601' resolution (720x576 pixels) into IPPP sequences using 2 MB of RAM. The invention provides the feature of selectively (82a, 82b) encoding images in a lower resolution mode. The spare capacity of resources in the low-resolution mode (e.g. memory capacity and memory bandwidth) is used to improve the performance (e.g. higher image quality, lower bit rate). More particularly, the RAM (81) and motion estimator (9) required for producing P-pictures in the high-resolution mode are arranged (83, 84) to produce B-pictures in the low-resolution mode.

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